(SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to promote industrialization in North eastern Region and Sikkim, 'New Industrial Policy and other concessions in North Eastern Region' and 'New Industrial Policy and other concessions in the State of Sikkim' were issued on 24.12.1997 and 23.12.2002 respectively. These policies provide.for various concessions like excise duty exemption, income tax exemption, investment subsidy, interest subsidy, comprehensive insurance etc. The Government is currently reviewing the North East Industrial Policy so as to make it a more effective instrument of industrialization and ensure development of the North East, including Sikkim.

(c) As per the impact assessment study of the Tata Economic Consultancy Services (TECS), the details of investment during 1999 to September 2004 in the North Eastern Region are given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*The details of investment during 1999 to September, 2004 in NER*

| State | Investment (Rs. in crore) |
|---|---|
| Assam | 528.19 |
| Meghalaya | 441.01 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 39.86 |
| Tripura | 31.58 |
| Nagaland | 19.64 |
| Mizoram | 4.00 |
| Manipur | 3.00 |
| TOTAL | 1,067.28 |

**Sector-specific FDI**

2429. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA. Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow sector-specific FDI;

(b) if so, whether any consultations by Department of Industrial Policy

and Promotion with the Department of Consumer Affairs have been held in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how allowing 51 per cent FDI in single-branded retail would help to get investments in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The policy on FDI is reviewed on an on-going basis through inter-Ministerial consultations and proposal to allow sector-specific FDI has been mooted.

(d) The extant policy on FDI in retail of Single Brand Products will encourage investments in production and marketing, improving the availability of such goods for the consumer, encouraging increased sourcing of goods from India, and will help enhancing competitiveness of Indian enterprises through access to global designs, technologies and management practices.

**Trade route through Bangladesh In NER**

2430. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India would benefit more by opening of trade route through Bangladesh on North-East border; and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the security angle while opening of the trade between Bangladesh and North-Eastern parts of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Both India and Bangladesh would benefit from opening of additional trade routes between Bangladesh and North East Indian States.

(b) Such decisions are taken in consultation with all concerned authorities after taking into consideration all relevant aspects including security angle.